

## Church Matters.

## Religious Notices.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—Rev. H. W. Ballantine, Pastor. Public worship on the Sabbath at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 12 M. Sunday-school prayer meeting, Sabbath, at 7 P. M. Weekly prayer meeting, Thursday, at 7.45 P. M.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.**—Rev. Ezra D. Simons, Pastor. Sunday services, Preaching at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M.; Sunday-school, 12 M. The Lord's Supper on the first Sabbath of each month, close of morning service. Weekly prayer meeting every Thursday evening at 7.45 o'clock. Young People's Prayer Meeting Tuesday evening.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**—Rev. D. R. Lowrie, Pastor. Sunday services, Preaching at 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school at 12.30 P. M. Prayer meeting Thursday evening at 7.45. Class meetings Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7.45.

**THE WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—Front street, corner Franklin. Rev. S. W. Duffield, Pastor. Sabbath services, 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school, 12 M. Weekly prayer meeting at 8 o'clock each Thursday evening, in Chapel parlour.

**CHRIST CHURCH (EPISCOPAL).**—Liberty street. Rev. W. G. Farrington, D.D., Rector. Morning service 10.30 o'clock; Sunday-school at 9.30 A. M.

**CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART.**—Rev. J. M. Nardiello, Pastor. First mass, 8.30 A. M.; High mass, 10.30; Vespers, 3 P. M.; Sunday-school, 2.30 P. M.

**BERKELEY UNION SABBATH SCHOOL.**—Held in Berkeley schoolhouse, Bloomfield Avenue, every Sunday, at 3 o'clock P. M. John A. Skinner, Superintendent. All are welcome.

**WATSESSING M. E. CHURCH.**—Rev. J. Cowans, Pastor. Sunday services, Preaching, 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school, 2.30 P. M. Prayer meeting, Thursday evening at 7.45. Class meeting on Tuesday evening at 7.45.

**ST. PAUL'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.**—Watseessing—Rev. J. Edwards, Rector. Morning service, 10.30 o'clock; evening service, 8; Sunday-school, 3 P. M.

**GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**—Rev. John M. Enslin, Pastor. Hours of Service, 10.30 A. M. Sunday-school, 2 P. M. Prayer meeting, Tuesday evening, 7.45.

**REFORMED CHURCH, BROOKDALE.**—Rev. \_\_\_\_\_, Pastor. Sabbath services, 10.30 A. M. and 7.30 P. M. Sunday-school, 9 A. M. E. G. Day, Superintendent. Prayer meeting, Wednesday evening.

**HOPE CHAPEL.** Sunday-school every Sabbath at 3.30 P. M. Mr. John G. Broughton, Superintendent.

**SILVER LAKE.**—Sabbath-school held every Sunday, in the hall, at 3 P. M. Charles A. Hubbs, Superintendent. Gospel meeting every Sabbath evening at 7.45 o'clock. Weekly Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening.

**REV. R. D. POWELL** of Drew Seminary preached in the Reformed Church at Brookdale, Sunday morning and evening.

**REV. MR. BALLANTINE** is at home again, and will preach in his pulpit tomorrow.

**DR. EDWARD STUBBERT** of Ning po, China, gave a very interesting talk at the prayer-meeting of Westminster Church on Thursday evening. It was particularly valuable from the fact that it dealt with the every day experience of the missionaries and medical men.

**AN unusually good sermon** on THE CERTAINTY OF GOD'S PROMISE was preached by the pastor of the Baptist Church last Sabbath morning. Text, "For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him amen, unto the glory of God by us."

**THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S Association** of Silver Lake held a public meeting on Tuesday evening.

The exercises consisted of singing, recitations, and readings. The attendance was good, and the program well received.

**THE S. S. TEACHERS' NORMAL CLASS.**—Owing to the meeting of the Presbytery on next Wednesday in Bloomfield, the Normal Class will not hold their first meeting for the study of the lesson, until Wednesday evening, Oct. 10th.

**HOPE CHAPEL SUNDAY-SCHOOL.**—The Superintendent writes us from this school: "We have recently lost four teachers by removal, and find it extremely difficult to fill their places. It is a grand opportunity for any one desirous of sowing the good seed, and we would most heartily welcome any Christian who would come over and help us."

**REV. DR. CLAPP** of New York, preached two very acceptable sermons in the First Presbyterian Church, last Sabbath. Text, A. M., "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Text, P. M., "But what, is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?"

**SILVER LAKE.**—The meeting in the Hall last Sabbath evening was devoted entirely to the cause of temperance. The room was well filled, and the spirit of the meeting excellent. Mr. Chas. A. Hubbs presided. Earnest addresses were made by Messrs. Franks, Squiers, Wellman, and Bingham. Verses of Scripture bearing on the subject were recited by a number of the children. The singing, led by Mr. Edward Davis, of Bloomfield, at the organ, was good. The principles of total abstinence and prohibition were warmly advocated.

**THE Presbytery of Newark** will meet in the Sunday-school rooms of the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday next at ten o'clock. The sessions of this body are open to the public, who are always welcome. The "Moderator's Sermon" will be delivered by the retiring Moderator, Rev. Samuel W. Duffield, on Wednesday evening at half past seven o'clock. We shall give a full report of the proceedings of the Presbytery in our next issue. It includes within its limits the Presbyterian Churches of Newark, Bloomfield, Montclair, Caldwell, and Lyons' Farms, and has under its care the German Theological Seminary.

## Bloomfield Township Sabbath Schools.

The following table of statistics regarding the schools in our township will be of interest to Sabbath-school workers:

Number of officers	53
Number of teachers	1513
Number of scholars	1151
Scholars under 18 years	1151
Average attendance	1231
Scholars united with the churches during last year	74
Volumes in libraries	2572
Benevolent contributions	\$1195.59
Contributed to the State and County work	57.39

The above figures are compiled from the last yearly reports of the following schools:

First Presbyterian; German Presbyterian; Westminster Presbyterian; Park Methodist Episcopal; Watseessing Methodist Episcopal; Brookdale Reformed; Hope Chapel; Berkeley Union; First Baptist.

## Normal Class Bloomfield S. S. Teachers' Association.

**OPENING MEETING.**

One of the most enjoyable meetings of its kind ever held in Bloomfield was that of the Sabbath School Teachers' Association on Wednesday evening in the new Sunday-school rooms of the First Presbyterian Church. Almost every school in the Association was well represented by officers, teachers, and friends. The attendance numbered about one hundred and fifty, among whom we noticed the Rev. H. W. Ballantine, just returned from his summer vacation; Rev. S. W. Duffield, pastor of Westminster Church; Rev. W. Stubbart, Dr. Edward Stubbart, recently arrived from China; Mr. Charles M. Davis, County Superintendent of Public Schools; Mr. Dunbar, Principal of Bloomfield Public Schools; and last, but not least, Rev. W. H. Brodhead, teacher of the Normal Class.

The meeting was announced to be a social gathering, and such it proved, from very beginning to latest end. This last expression can only be appreciated by those who were present, as the meeting did not end abruptly, as many do, but just melted away like the delicious ice cream which had been so generously provided. On a blackboard at the door were the words in large letters:

## WELCOME WORKERS.

The room was tastefully adorned with flowers, and the chairs so arranged as to render the audience as much as possible at ease.

Mr. Grant Wheeler, President of the Association, called the meeting to order at about 8.30 o'clock, and extended to all the teachers and friends a hearty welcome, after which prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Ballantine. A quartet, "Sunrise," was then sung, being well rendered and appreciated. Rev. Mr. Duffield, in response to a call, addressed the meeting, expressing his great interest in the Normal Class, and congratulating the teachers on their securing in Mr. Brodhead a leader so well adapted for the position. A duet arranged for piano and voice, "L'Amour follows Mr. Duffield's remarks. The Rev. Mr. Ballantine was called on, and, in a happy way, spoke of his pleasure in being present at such a gathering, and made mention of some of the benefits arising from the use of the International Series of Lessons.

Another fine quartet, "Sunset," was rendered, after which some of the teachers and officers took part in the singing, giving words of cheer and encouragement. While some excellent remarks were being made by Mr. W. W. Wynan, of the First Presbyterian Sunday school, the Rev. Mr. Brodhead entered the meeting, and coming was greeted with applause. He was just in time to finish up the mental feast with a few well chosen and happy words. After this point in the meeting more than half an hour was devoted to intercourse, during which due attention was given to the bountiful supply of ice cream, cake, and coffee.

## About Taxes.

**To The Bloomfield Citizen:**

This is the time of the year when the man who is so unfortunate as to own some real estate wakes up to a real sense of his misfortune.

The time for the paying of taxes has come, and the voice of the mourner is heard in the land. I, in common with several of my friends and neighbors, belong to the much to be pitied class of real estate owners, and to your friendly columns we come for the redress for wrongs which we vainly seek at the hands of the law or its creatures. I preface this complaint with the remark that you will look in vain for our names among delinquent tax payers; we are all tax payers, and consequently heavy taxes mean something to us; also, that we do not object to the size of the tax levy, but we do object to the mode of the assessment. Our complaint in brief is this: that we are made to pay our neighbors' taxes; that we are assessed in a manner so unequal, so unjust, so entirely unsystematic, that a burden of taxes is thrown on a few that should be distributed over many; that the assessment, which professes to be in all cases 50 per cent. of the value of the property, is in some cases 20 per cent., in some 30, in some 40, in some 50; but in the great majority of cases under 50 per cent. of the fair value, and that consequently those who are assessed full 50 per cent. are unduly burdened.

Now, I venture to say—I admit without statistics—that if the property in the whole town were assessed in the same ratio, that instead of 55 per cent. being the valuation requisite to raise the money needed, 40 per cent. would do; or, if the law requires 55 per cent. to be assessed, then a rate 10 per cent. lower might be adopted, and the many would bear the taxes that are now laid on the few.

I am not talking without facts. I will give some instances that have come to my knowledge and can be verified from the books of the assessor. I suppress names. "A" owns a piece of property in this town that is assessed at \$8,000; not 600 feet from him. "B" owns a house and lot assessed at \$2,300. "A's" property cost \$12,000, "B's" about \$8,000. I have a piece of property which is assessed at \$4,000, the assessor owns a piece of property which is assessed at \$2,700. I paid for mine about \$5,000; he holds his at the lowest at \$3,000. I know property in the center of the town which pays a tax of a little over \$200 which the owner holds at about \$4,000, while a house and lot near me, worth not as much, pays a tax of about \$450. It is the inequality that makes the injustice; the figures speak for themselves. What is the remedy? Am I asked. What are you going to do about it? I answer nothing; it is impossible for any one or two men, who have other business to go over the whole town and examine assess-

ments, and bring their inequality before the proper officers, and anything less than the revision of the whole would be unjust. We can do nothing as long as the people of the town are satisfied with the present management. But let me call your attention to one fact: this inequality of taxation is felt most by the builders of new houses, and the makers of new improvements. The inevitable result is that such men will stop improving, and the town will again sink to sleep. I know of three houses which would have been built this fall, but onetaxbills stopped them all. Where one such case is known, how many are there that never come to our attention?

The only remedy, as far as I can see, is either to inspire the present assessor with a keener sense of his duty, or to get a new one who needs no such inspiration. Certain it is that unless some change is made in the manner of the assessments, all desirable improvements will be stopped. Which shall it be?

## The Baker Family.

Near Mechanicville, New York, a branch of the Baker family have for some years held an annual reunion. They gathered on the 6th of September this year, and the occasion was more fortunate than some folks they know all about their original ancestor, and they declare that he was James Baker, born on Long Island April 28, 1765. Here they begin. The first ancestor, Abel, who is our common ancestor, was born in 1700, and he himself to inquire, for he had the honor of founding their particular tribe, and began it with rather more than a Baker's dozen. He moved into New York State, and died in Seneca Co. near Mechanicville July 26, 1840, having been the parent of sixteen sons and no daughters. Of these sixteen only four are now living. They are Ransom O. and John T. who reside near Mechanicville; Abel, who is our common ancestor at Bloomfield; and Paris, who is claimed by Mechanicville. There are over two hundred of James Baker's Bakers. From 1863, when Bloom Baker had the first reunion, his house, an annual custom has flourished. At first only the sons and their wives came. Now they let in the children and grandchildren. Finally, the houses couldn't hold them; and they resolved themselves into a present year's gathering was at the house of Charles Gallett, son-in-law of John T. Baker; and as 135 persons were present it is to be supposed that they brought their lunch baskets with them. There was a chapter of the Bible read by one of the family, and what with speaking and singing and chatting and eating they had a pleasant time. The weather was good, and Benjamin Baker of the town is a hearty welcome. He is a son of the family, and he is a hearty welcome to say that he would "gibbons the entertainment next year." Judging by the present report Benjamin's mess will need to be of ample size.

## N. J. State Firemen's Association.

The sixth annual convention of the State Firemen's Association was held on Monday last in Dover. Representatives from nearly all of the towns and cities were present; about one hundred and sixty delegates attending, representing 150 towns. The convention was called to order by Gen. Bird W. Spencer, President, followed by prayer from Rev. Mr. Holloway. Some delay was occasioned by contesting delegations from Westfield and Whitefield. Mr. Gibson, of Dover, made an address of welcome, and extended the hospitalities of the firemen of the town to the visitors. The officers elected for the coming year were as follows:

President, Gen. Bird W. Spencer, of Passaic; Vice-Presidents, C. F. Kuh, of Union; C. W. Byles, of Trenton; R. W. Merideth, of Millville; F. H. Beach, of Dover; A. J. Clifton, of Philadelphia; H. C. Secretary, H. J. of Philadelphia; Fin. Secretary, W. W. Slack, of Burlington; Treasurer, John McKiernan, of Paterson.

Mr. W. R. Weeks, President of the Bloomfield Fire Association, was elected a member of the Legislative Committee. Hoboken was selected as the place of holding the next annual convention. The meeting adjourned at 3 o'clock, and the delegates were in a condition to do justice to the very handsome entertainment provided by the local firemen. A band of music escorted the delegates to the two principal hotels, where an hour was spent at dinner. After dinner the delegates were taken to the principal parts of the town, and inspecting the fire department headquarters.

The town of Dover has provided its firemen with a very good equipment. They have a two-story brick building erected for the use of the department; a steam fire engine with tender, three hose carriages, and a hook and ladder truck. Each company has a handsome fire engine. The second floor, \$27,000 has been expended, and the department has a good record. The entire proceedings of the convention were ordered printed in the *Providence Herald*. The delegates attending from Bloomfield were Messrs. Weeks, Chambers, and Tower.

**MARRIED.**

CRAWFORD—CUNNINGHAM.—At Bloomfield, N. J., Sept. 27, 1883, by Rev. S. W. Duffield, Mr. Robert F. Crawford, of Brookfield, N. J., to Miss Mary A. Cunningham, of New York city.

FRANK—DOSENBRAGE.—At Watseessing, N. J., Sept. 20, 1883, by Rev. J. M. Enslin, Mr. Louis Frank to Miss Mary Dosenbrach.

## BUSINESS NOTICES.

A new boarding and livery stable has been opened in the stables formerly belonging to the old hotel, Mr. Van Arsdale, the proprietor, is well known to our readers; he will use his utmost endeavors to give satisfaction, and hopes to secure his share of patronage. One thing he has that we know will be thoroughly appreciated by some of our young men, to wit: a fine, well broken saddle horse.

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SURPLUS (Massachusetts Standard).....2,901,906 56

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